

LEE BENSON

SLOC case is clear to all but lawyers

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THIS LAWYER THING won't go away, will it?

In the beginning, the IOC wouldn't play along with Dave Johnson and Tom Welch without, you know, a little something to make it worth their while, and now that Johnson and Welch have been charged with corruption and bribery, their attorneys — as well as the attorneys for anyone and everything else remotely related to Salt Lake's Olympic bid — are saying the same thing.

Pay up or you don't get our support.

It's an expensive jungle out there.

Try to follow the bouncing money: Lawyer complains on client's behalf that client is getting the shaft because SLOC won't pay client's legal fees, and then lawyer sends bill to client for making said argument.

Part of the problem is that no one involved in the scandal case — and this includes cash-strapped SLOC — is willing to hire lawyers they can afford.

Everyone is joined at the checkbook by lawyers from cherrywood firms that don't even know how to spell c-o-n-t-i-n-g-e-n-c-y f-e-e. Let alone "simple case" and "speedy trial."

gress this year.

The faux pas occurred as Clinton spoke off the cuff Tuesday at a Washington fund-raiser for 3rd District House Democrat Donald Dunn.

"When I was elected governor (of Arkansas) in 1978, the governor of Utah was a man named Scott Matheson," he told the crowd. "I loved him. And I appointed his son United States attorney (for Utah) . . . and now he's running for Congress." But the former U.S. attorney for Utah and the current candidate are two different people. Scott Matheson Jr. served as U.S. attorney. His brother, Jim Matheson, is running for Congress in Utah's 2nd District this year.

The comments came as Clinton said he wanted to appear at the fund-raiser in part "because I really care a lot about Utah and honor the heritage of Democrats in Utah."

outraised Cannon — a rare occurrence for a challenger. He had raised \$285,930 to Cannon's \$268,288. Dunn also had \$104,549 in cash on hand on Sept. 30, compared to a mere \$15,807 by Cannon.

Dunn said he plans to use the cash to buy TV and radio ads, which began airing this week.

Meanwhile, Cannon, who holds large leads in polls despite spending little and running a low-key campaign, said he is not worried and predicted the fund-raiser would hurt Dunn more than it would help.

"I'm ecstatic that he had the president at a fund-raiser. I don't think that will help in this district. In fact, I would have asked the president myself to appear at a fund-raiser for him," Cannon said.

Cannon was one of 13 House prosecutors who managed but lost the impeachment trial of Clinton in the Senate.

Anyway, I have a solution. I'll take this case.

We'll try it starting Monday.

The defense calls to the witness stand the following: Gov. Mike Leavitt, former Salt Lake City Mayor Deedee Corradini, former Olympic Bid Board of Trustees directors Frank Joklik, Spence Eccles and Verl Topham, bid committee legal adviser Jim Jardine, IOC member Jim Easton, and bid committee chief administrative officer Craig Peterson.

We could call more, but these will do.

To the governor: Were you aware of nice gifts being given to members of the IOC on their visits to Utah, including expensive suitcases which you personally presented?

To the former mayor: Were you aware of an IOC relative working for Salt Lake City while you were mayor?

To attorney Jardine: Did you make calls to the the University of Utah admissions department on behalf of relatives of IOC members?

To IOC delegate Easton: Did an IOC relative work for your firm in Salt Lake City?

To trustees Joklik, Eccles and Topham: Did you know that relatives of IOC members were getting college scholarships and jobs in Utah?

To chief administrative officer Peterson: Is it true that all bid committee checks for more than \$10,000 had to be signed by you?

Our last witness will be Gordon Hall, former Utah Supreme Court justice and head of the ethics commission assigned by SLOC to investigate bid-committee tactics and author an ethics report.

To Mr. Hall: Is it true that you said, "It strains anyone's good sense to think that there were only two people involved"?

□ □ □

After receiving "yes" answers to all of the above questions (even though I'm not an actual lawyer, I know the cardinal rule of lawyering: Never ask a question to which you don't already know the answer), the defense simply asks, if it please the court, that charges of corruption either be dropped or, in fairness, be extended to include all of the above witnesses and others that may (will) be called.

No one is arguing that Johnson and Welch didn't run slightly out of control — paying for IOC kids' education, what was up with that? — only that many of the state's most influential and powerful people knew what they were doing.

Lawyers whose hourly rate would cover your average monthly car payment would have you believe the case is more complicated than this, but it isn't.

Already, they have billed our Olympic bidders and organizers, former and present, at least six times what was spent on wooing IOC delegates in the first place.

Small wonder tickets to the hockey final are so high.

Lee Benson's column runs Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please send e-mail to benson@desnews.com and faxes to 801-237-2527.

MAIZE

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Lighting must be adequate for assembly and parking and must be provided during the evening inside the maze trails.

Also, mazes cannot come closer than 1,000 feet to an existing residence or dwelling unless the owner of that structure is also marketing the maze.

Corn mazes or puzzles are cut or grown in fields traditionally used for raising crops. Patterns, words and even creatures such as dinosaurs are worked into the picture.

Often, the fields are those that would ordinarily stand fallow in a traditional rotation schedule, said Brett Herbst, designer of the MAiZE located in the Pleasant Grove area this year.

The mazes are open to the public for about two months and sometimes double as haunted fields during the weeks just prior to Halloween.

Herbst reports up to 200,000 customers "lost" in his six Utah puzzles since he introduced the unusual form of entertainment in 1996 in American Fork.

Visitors to the mazes pay an admission price, which grants them access to the maze and to the opportunity to get lost amid rows and rows of corn stalks.

Some are so successful that their designers — like Herbst — have taken up management of the mazes as a full-time job.

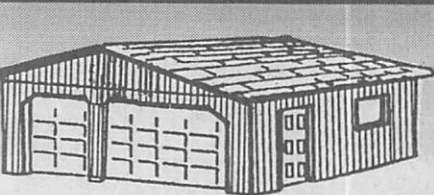
Herbst currently has 60 mazes open across the country and broke the Guinness Book of Records' current record with his 1999 labyrinth as the largest maze.

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